

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 10/511,685

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1-10. (Cancelled).

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) A microorganism growth substrate comprising a sterile nutrient composition derived from the biomass of a culture of bacteria including methanotrophic bacteria, further comprising at least one sterile nutrient, and optionally containing a diluent.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The substrate as claimed in claim 11, wherein said sterile nutrient is selected from glucose, nitrate and mineral salts, and combinations thereof.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) The substrate as claimed in claim 12, wherein the glucose is present in a dry mass basis weight ratio of 5:1 to 1:5, relative to the biomass deriving component.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A substrate as claimed in claim 12, wherein the nitrate and mineral salts are present in a weight ratio of 0.01:1 to 0.2:1, relative to the biomass deriving component.

Claim 15-24. (Cancelled).

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) The substrate as claimed in claim 12, wherein said mineral salts are selected from the group consisting of potassium, calcium, magnesium, sodium, molybdenum, iron, zinc, boron, cobalt, manganese and nickel compounds.

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT
U.S. Appln. No. 10/511,685

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) The substrate as claimed in claim 13, wherein the glucose is present in a dry mass basis weight ratio of 2:1 to 1:2, relative to the biomass deriving component.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) The substrate as claimed in claim 14, wherein the nitrate and mineral salts are present in a weight ratio of 0.05:1 to 0.1:1, relative to the biomass deriving component.